

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. Allowance of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made herein.

It is acknowledged with appreciation that claims 83-92, 107, and 113-177 are allowed and that claims 94-96 and 109 are considered allowable.

Claims 65-67, 75, 78-82, 93, 97, and 100-103 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by French Patent 1,019,607; claims 68, 70-73, 98, 106, 108, 110, and 111 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR ('607); and claims 69, 76, 74, 77, 99, and 105 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR ('607) in view of Micco US Patent 5,280,905. While Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejections, the claims have been amended herein in the following manner to expedite prosecution in the present application.

With regard to the rejection under 35 USC 102(b), claims 65-67, 75, 78-82, 93, and 100-103 have been canceled herein. Claim 97 was amended to depend from allowable claim 94, which has been amended into independent form.

With regard to the first rejection under 35 USC 103(a), claims 68, 106, 110, and 111 have been canceled herein. Claims 70-73 and 108 were amended to depend from allowed claim 107. Claim 98 depends from allowable claim 94.

With regard to the second rejection under 35 USC 103(a), claims 69, 74, 76, 77, and 105 have been canceled. Claim 99 was amended to depend from allowable claim 94, which has been amended into independent form.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the cited rejections and allowance of pending claims 70-73, 83-92, 94-99, 107-109, and 113-117 are requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 35502US1.

Respectfully submitted,
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